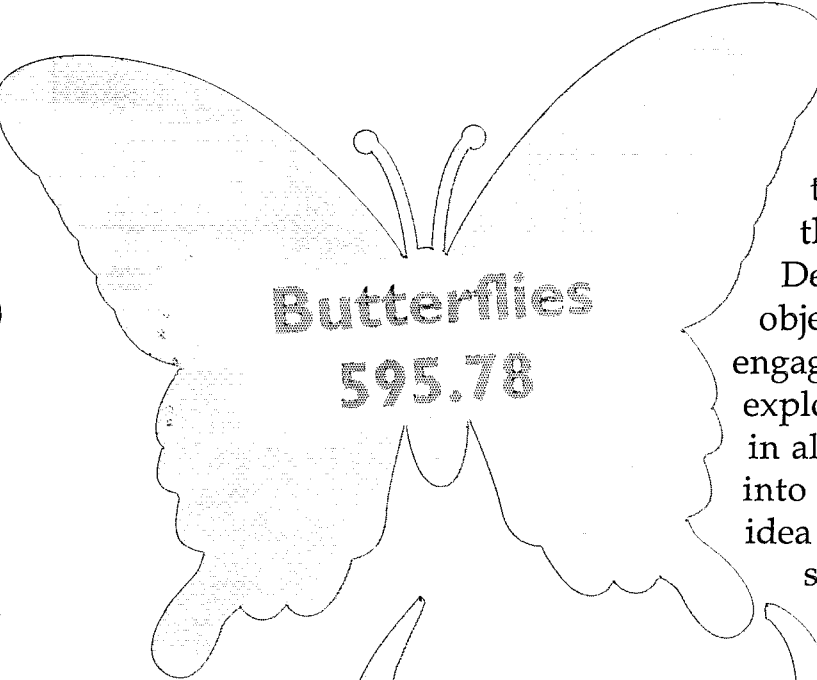


INFORMATION SKILL OF THE MONTH

SHADOW PLAY:

Locating Resources in the Library Media Center



Butterflies

595.78

It is important that we help young students understand, early on, how nonfiction materials are arranged in the library media center. We want them to be able to find resources that they need independently. But, preaching Dewey is not going to help them reach the objective. Instead we need to incorporate engaging and fun ways to help students explore the mysteries of finding resources in all libraries. We can slip Dewey's system into the conversation over time. Here is an idea that works especially well with primary students.

Grade Levels: 1-3

Resources:

Overhead projector and screen
Construction paper cut-out shapes

Preparation and Planning:

Depending on the topic being researched, this activity can be tailored to fit the needs of the day. If you are doing a unit on bats, you will want to cut out bat shapes. If you are doing a thematic unit on modes of transportation, you can cut out all sorts of shapes related to transportation. To prepare, you need to cut out shapes needed and write a sub-



Spiders

595.4

ject and a Dewey Decimal number on each, related to the shape. These will become your Dewey Decimal Shadow Shapes.

This activity works well when you are working on a theme that covers many topics, giving the students more of an overview of how the numbers lead them to new areas of the library media center. A theme will also help you avoid having everyone bunched into one section of the library media center. But, one topic, like insects, will also work well to help students understand and remember where the insect books are located. But, it will require some creativity in managing the crowd during the location stage of the activity.

Procedure:

Once students know the topic(s) to be researched, you can introduce the Dewey Decimal Shadow search for resources with a challenge. Gather students around the overhead projector with your ready-made Dewey Decimal Shadow Shapes in hand. Tell the students that you are sure they cannot guess the shapes that you will be projecting on the screen. But, if they can guess the shapes, then you will give the shapes out and they can try to find books in the library media center related to the shapes. (It is best to let students work in pairs when locating the books so they can help each other with their shape quest. Each student can have a shape.) Once you have distributed all of the shapes, send the pairs on their way to find the resources. Have them look for one book that they can read and that has pictures related to the

topic of their shape. The teacher and the library media specialist can help students as they search, coaching them as needed.

Once students find their books, have the pairs sit down and look through their books so they can be ready to tell the class two things: the subject of the book and the number it was located under on the shelf.

When everyone is ready to share their discoveries, challenge them to be ready to tell the title and subject while you project their shape on the screen. This will help them reach the goal of finishing before you take the shape off the overhead and keep the presentations brief. Once they have shared their book, have them put it on a book truck

with the Dewey Shadow Shape inserted into the book. Remind students what

Dewey number the topic was listed under as the book is placed on the cart. At the end of the activity, you will have a book truck filled with books that relate to the topics that students will be researching. On their next visit to the library media center, there will be a book waiting for them on their topic and they can begin their research. They will also have the Dewey Shadow Shape to help them find additional resources.

Follow-Up:

Have the students use their Dewey Decimal Shapes to find additional information on their topic.

After providing an introduction or review, have them use the electronic catalog to locate their subject, record numbers, and again try to find materials on the shelf. 🖐

Bats
599.4

This activity is amazingly helpful for English Language Learners since numbers are easy to understand in any language. Once they find the location of the books, the pictures help them realize the topic covered. They will be the first to catch on to the Dewey Decimal system!

Trains
625.1



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TITLE: SHADOW PLAY: Locating Resources in the Library
Media Center
SOURCE: School Library Media Activities Monthly 22 no9 My
2006
PAGE(S): 20-1

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